

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A packet switch for controlling flow of data in a network,
comprising:

a plurality of input ports;

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5         a plurality of output ports;

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a scheduler having N (natural number) in number of input port scheduling modules reserving a particular input port among said plurality of input ports for feeding data to a designated output port among said plurality of output ports and determining
10 connecting condition between said input port and said output port,

in said scheduler, each of said input port scheduling module receiving reservation condition information of a certain time slot from the scheduling module in the preceding stage and determining permission or rejection of reservation of packet transmission from said input port scheduling module in said reservation time slot, per time slot

said scheduling module including

means for reservation of packet transmission referring
20 the reservation condition information received from the
scheduling module in the prededing stage and the resevation
request of own scheduling module and transmitting the result
of said reservation of packet transmission to the scheduling
module in the next stage;

25 means for defining a frame consisted of N in number of

5 reservation order varying means for varying order of said
reservation by said plurality of scheduling module,

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10. A packet switch as set forth in claim 3, wherein said control data is data for realizing scheduling equalizing use

order and use frequency of reservation start slot for initiating said reservation by a plurality of scheduling modules.

11. A packet switching method for determining connecting condition between input ports and output ports by making reservation for particular input port among a plurality of input ports for feeding data to a designated output port among a plurality of output ports in a scheduler of a switch having N in number of input port scheduling modules, comprising:

10 step of receiving reservation condition information of a certain time slot from the scheduling module in the preceding stage;

 step of determining permission or rejection of reservation of packet transmission from said input port scheduling module
15 in said reservation time slot, per time slot

 step of reservation of packet transmission referring the reservation condition information received from the scheduling module in the preceding stage and the reservation request of own scheduling module and transmitting the result of said
20 reservation of packet transmission to the scheduling module in the next stage ;

 means, in the current scheduling module, for receiving said reservation condition information from the preceding scheduling module;

25 means, in the current scheduling module, for preliminarily

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determining a future time slot to access one of said plurality of output ports as the particular time slot in the next frame;

step of selecting one of said plurality of output ports for reservation for transmitting in said future time slot;

5 step of making judgment whether said future time slot has already been reserved by other scheduling module;

step of making reservation of said future time slot when said future time slot is not reserved by other scheduling module and putting information indicative that said future time slot
10 is reserved in said reservation condition information;

step of transferring said reservation condition information to next scheduling module,

considering in viewpoint of reservation process in the time slot,

15 said reservation process being initiated simultaneously at the leading end of the frame, being progressed simultaneously in pipeline process, and completing simultaneously at the end of the frame;

step of initiating process for respectively different
20 reservation time slot in the next frame in each of a plurality of said reservation processes which are initiated simultaneously at the leading end of the frame; and

reservation order varying step of varying order of said reservation by said plurality of scheduling module, and making
25 reservation of ports to output with respect to a packet for

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next frame per each frame in the varied order.

12. A packet switching method as set forth in claim 11, wherein
said plurality of scheduling modules performs said reservation
5 in an order corresponding to logical connection order relative
to other modules, said reservation order varying means varies
a connection topology of said plurality of scheduling modules.

13. A packet switching method as set forth in claim 11, wherein
10 said reservation order varying means includes a switch
performing switching operation for varying logical connecting
condition of said plurality of scheduling modules and a table
storing control data for controlling switching operation of
said switch.

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14. A packet switching method as set forth in claim 13, wherein
physical connection between said plurality of scheduling module
and said switch is an electrical connection.

20 15. A packet switching method as set forth in claim 13, wherein
physical connection between said plurality of scheduling module
and said switch is an optical connection.

16. A packet switching method as set forth in claim 13, wherein
25 said table is provided in each of said plurality of scheduling

modules.

17. A packet switching method as set forth in claim 13, wherein
said table is provide in common for said plurality of scheduling
5 modules.

18. A packet switching method as set forth in claim 13, wherein
said control data is data for controlling switching operation
of said switch for varying time slot for initiating reservation
of said plurality of scheduling modules per each frame at the
leading end of each frame.

19. A packet switching method as set forth in claim 13, wherein
said control data is data for realizing scheduling equalizing
15 use frequency of reservation start slot for initiating said
reservation by a plurality of scheduling modules.

20. A packet switching method as set forth in claim 13, wherein
said control data is data for realizing scheduling equalizing
20 use order and use frequency of reservation start slot for
initiating said reservation by a plurality of scheduling
modules.